

REACTION TO THE FRENCH COLONIZATION OF INDO-CHINA

discouraged, the party lost strength and influence, and finally died when the communists broke away at the end of 1929. The moderate elements hesitated to denounce their communist ex-colleagues lest they themselves became involved, but their erstwhile comrades did not hesitate to denounce them to the police, and with their arrest in 1930 the party came officially to an end.

The Nationalist Annamite Party (Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dong) is Tonkinese. In view of the regional feeling its origin made it impossible for this group to unite with the party in Annam. The more realistic temperament of the Tonkinese has made their revolutionary attempts more formidable, though it has never formed a large group numerically —only 1,500 members out of a population of eight millions. This party is the replica of the Canton Kuomintang, founded by Sun Yat-sen. In 1927 two brothers founded a publishing house in Hanoi, with the double aim of making money and of spreading revolutionary ideas. Youth characterized the members of this party: not one of them was over 30 years old. Many of the students who had been excluded from schools for their participation in the 1925-26 strikes formed excellent revolutionary material. From the outset this was a terrorist group. Propaganda was addressed to students, employees, and, above all, to the army. Women were also affiliated and thus given one of their first opportunities for self-expression. Foreign aid was solicited. In 1928 a group visited Siam to link forces with kindred organizations there. But this attempt was a conspicuous failure, not only there but in Southern China and Cambodia and the other Annamite countries as well. Finally in 1930 they successfully established relations with

the Cantonese
and Yunnanese groups.

In January, 1929, the party made a first unsuccessful attempt to kill Pasquier, and a month later succeeded in murdering Bazin, head of the Labour Recruiting Bureau. This took place on the eve of the Annamite New Year, so the revolver shots were not heard above the explosion of firecrackers. A letter was pinned to Bazin's body denouncing in violent terms the crimes which had led to his execution. It was subsequently in making arrests that the police for the first time got their clue to this party's existence. They were astonished to learn that fifty per cent of its members were in government service, and that its leader, who escaped arrest, was a former school teacher whose record was not of the most spotless. The party, however, survived largely intact, but in a reorganized form. Members had been too well known to each other, and so, in order to prevent betrayals identity henceforth was to